

## Claims

I claim:

1. A method for rating the severity of psoriasis in a patient, comprising
  - a) assessing a percent of the patient's body surface exhibiting signs of psoriasis,
  - b) assessing overall qualities of the patient's psoriasis plaques, said qualities being elevation, erythema, and scale,
  - c) classifying the severity of the patient's psoriasis into at least four classes of increasing severity,wherein a classification into the lowest class indicates that the patient is free of psoriasis, and wherein a classification into the highest class indicates that the patient has a most severe form of psoriasis,  
wherein said classification is based upon the percent of the patient's body surface exhibiting signs of psoriasis adjusted by the overall elevation, erythema and scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques, and  
wherein the weight given to one or more of the overall qualities of elevation, erythema or scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques in classifying the severity of the patient's psoriasis into a higher class is greater than the weight given to other of the overall qualities.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the overall elevation, erythema and scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques are categorized into a plurality of categories of increasing severity, with the lowest category encompassing plaques that display no elevation, no erythema, and no scale, respectively.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the overall elevation, erythema and scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques are categorized into 2 to 8 categories of increasing severity.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the overall elevation, erythema and scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques are categorized into 4 categories of increasing severity.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the percent of the patient's body surface exhibiting signs of psoriasis is grouped into a plurality of percentage ranges of increasing involvement.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the percent of the patient's body surface exhibiting signs of psoriasis is grouped into 4 to 10 ranges of increasing involvement.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein the lowest range is 0% body surface involvement and the highest range is approximately 51%-100% body surface involvement.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the percent of the patient's body surface involvement is grouped into the following ranges:
  - 0% of the body surface exhibiting signs of psoriasis:
  - from about 1 to about 3% of the body surface exhibiting signs of psoriasis,
  - from about 4 to about 9% of the body surface exhibiting signs of psoriasis,
  - from about 10 to about 20% of the body surface exhibiting signs of psoriasis,
  - from about 21% to about 29% of the body surface exhibiting signs of psoriasis,
  - from about 30 to about 50% of the body surface exhibiting signs of psoriasis, and
  - from about 51% to 100% of the body surface exhibiting signs of psoriasis.
9. The method of claim 5, wherein the percentage ranges are broader as the percent of body surface involvement increases.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the weight given to the overall elevation of the patient's psoriasis in classifying the severity of the patient's psoriasis into a higher class is greater than the weight given to the overall erythema or scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the weight given to the overall erythema of the patient's plaques in classifying the severity of the patient's psoriasis into a higher class is greater than the weight given to the overall scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into 5 to 8 classes of increasing severity
13. The method of claim 1, wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into 8 classes of increasing severity.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the lowest class if 0% of the patient's body surface exhibits signs of psoriasis.
15. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the second class if the % of body area involved is from about 1 to about 3% and, of the overall elevation, erythema, and scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques, none is worse than the next to lowest category.
16. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the third class if from about 1 to about 3% of the body surface is involved, and the overall elevation, erythema, and scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques are all in the highest or next to highest category.
17. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the second class if from about 4 to about 9% of the body surface is involved, the plaques are not elevated, and the overall erythema or overall scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques are in the next to lowest category.
18. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the third class if from about 4 to about 9% of the body surface is involved, and the overall elevation of the patient's psoriasis plaques is in the next to lowest category, or the overall erythema or overall scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques are in the next to highest category.
19. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the fourth class if from about 4 to about 9% of the body surface is involved, and the overall elevation of the plaques is in the next to highest category or the overall scale is in the highest category.
20. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the fifth class if from about 4 to about 9% of the body area is involved and the overall elevation or overall erythema of the patient's plaques are in the highest category.
21. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the third class

is from about 10 to about 20% of the body surface is involved, the plaques are not elevated, and the overall erythema is in the next to lowest category or the overall scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques is in the next to lowest or next to highest category.

22. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the fourth class if from about 10 to about 20% of the body surface is involved, the plaques are not elevated, and the overall erythema of the patient's plaques is in the next to highest category.

23. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the fifth class if from about 10 to about 20% of the body surface is involved, and the overall elevation of the patient's psoriasis plaques is in the next to lowest category.

24. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the sixth class if from about 10 to about 20% of the body surface is involved, and the overall elevation of the patient's psoriasis plaques is in the next to highest category or the overall scale of the patient's plaques is in the highest category.

25. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the seventh class if from about 10 to about 20% of the body surface is involved, and the overall elevation of the patient's psoriasis plaques is in the highest category or the overall erythema of the patient's plaques is in the highest category.

26. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the fourth class if from about 21 to about 29% of the body surface is involved, the plaques are not elevated, and the overall erythema is in the next to lowest category or the overall scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques is in the next to lowest or next to highest category.

27. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the fifth class if from about 21 to about 29% of the body surface is involved, the plaques are not elevated, and the overall erythema of the patient's plaques is in the next to highest category.

28. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the sixth class if from about 20 to about 29% of the body surface is involved and the overall elevation of the patient's psoriasis plaques is in the next to lowest category.

29. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the seventh class if from about 21 to about 29% of the body surface is involved, and the overall elevation is the next to highest or highest category, or the overall erythema or the overall scale of the patient's plaques is in the highest category.

30. The method of claim 13, wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the fifth class if from about 30 to about 50% of the body surface is involved, the plaques are not elevated, and the overall erythema or overall scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques are in the next to lowest category.

31. The method of claim 13, wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the sixth class if from about 30 to about 50% of the body surface is involved, the plaques are not elevated, and the overall erythema or overall scale of the patient's plaques is in the next to highest category.

32. The method of claim 13, wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the seventh class if from about 30 to about 50% of the patient's body surface is involved and the overall elevation of the patient's psoriasis plaques is in the next to lowest category.

33. The method of claim 13, wherein the patient's psoriasis is classified into the eighth class if from about 30 to about 50% of the body surface is involved, and the overall elevation is the next to highest or highest category, or the overall erythema or the overall scale of the patient's plaques is in the highest category.

34. The method of claim 13, wherein a patient with approximated 51% or greater body surface involved is classified as follows:

a) into the eighth class if the patient's plaques exhibit overall any elevation or the highest category of scale or erythema;

b) into the seventh class if the patient's plaques are not elevated and are categorized into the next to highest category erythema or scale, or

c) into the sixth class if the patient's plaques are not elevated and are categorized into the next to lowest category for erythema or scale.

35. The method of claim 13, wherein a patient with about 21% to about 29% body surface involved is classified as follows:
- a) into the seventh class if the patient's plaques exhibit elevation of the highest or next to highest category or the highest category of scale or erythema,
  - b) into the sixth class if the patient's plaques exhibit elevation of the next to lowest category or are categorized into the next to highest category for erythema, or
  - c) into the fourth class if the patient's plaques are not elevated and are categorized into the next to lowest category for erythema or next to lowest or next to highest category for scale.
36. The method of claim 13, wherein a patient with about 30% to about 50% body surface involved is classified as follows:
- a) into the eighth class if the patient's plaques exhibit elevation of the next to highest or highest category or the highest category of scale or erythema,
  - b) into the seventh class if the patient's plaques exhibit elevation of the next to lowest category or are categorized into the next to highest category for erythema or scale, or
  - c) into the fifth class if the patient's plaques are not elevated and are categorized into the next to lowest category for erythema or scale.
37. The method of claim 13, wherein a patient with approximately 51% or greater body surface involved is classified as follows:
- a) into the eighth class if the patient's plaques exhibit overall any elevation or the highest or next to highest category of scale or erythema, or
  - b) into the sixth class if the patient's plaques are not elevated and are categorized into the next to lowest category for erythema or scale.
38. The method of claim 1 where the psoriasis plaques are assessed for one or a combination of the following alternate assessments:
- thickness, induration, or infiltration instead of elevation;
  - color or redness instead of erythema; and
  - scaling or desquamation instead of scale.
39. The method of claim 1, wherein the level of severity is increased by 1 to 2 levels if

the patient's face, groin, palms, soles, or axilla exhibit signs of psoriasis.

40. The method of claim 1, wherein the level of severity is increased by 2 to 3 levels if 2 or more of the following regions of the patient's body exhibit signs of psoriasis: face, groin, palms, soles, and axilla.

41. The method of claim 1, whereby the assessment of psoriasis is performed visually, by palpation, by instrumentation, or by other measurement such that the various qualities of psoriasis may be rated.

42. A computer readable medium for storing computer executable instructions operable to perform computer executable elements of the method of claim 1.

43. A system for rating the severity of psoriasis in a patient, comprising:  
input logic for selecting a percentage of the patient's body surface exhibiting signs of psoriasis;

input logic for selecting an overall elevation of the patient's psoriasis plaques;

input logic for selecting an overall erythema of the patient's psoriasis plaques

input logic for selecting an overall scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques

logic for computing an overall score based on the percentage of the patient's body surface exhibiting signs of psoriasis as adjusted by the overall elevation, erythema, and scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques,

wherein the weight given to the overall elevation of the patient's overall plaque elevation in computing said overall score is greater than the weight given to the overall erythema or scale of the patient's psoriasis plaques, and

wherein the overall score classifies the severity of the patient's psoriasis plaques into one of at least four classes of increasing severity.